

BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newville, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2013

The Big Spring School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, and disability in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, or for information regarding services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, contact the Superintendent of Schools, Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator, 45 Mt. Rock Road, Newville, PA 17241, at (717) 776-2412.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Committee of the Whole of the Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring High School Large Group Room, Room 140, at 7:00 P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr. presiding. Eight (8) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr, President; William Swanson, Vice-President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; David Gutshall, Treasurer; John McCrea, William Piper; Kingsley Blasco; and Richard Norris.

Kingsley Blasco joined the meeting in progress at 7:02 pm.

Richard Roush – absent.

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Kevin Roberts, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; Brandie Shatto, Director of Educational Technology and Public Relations; Rick Gilliam, Director of Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation; and Carol Kuntz, Board Minutes.

II. PRESENTATION

A. Program of Activities for FFA – Mrs. Nailor and Mrs. Fulton, FFA Advisors. The FFA student representatives, Chrissy Kurnath, Tiffany Lehman, Maekala Koser, and Makayla Sturtz are here to present information to the Board on their Program Activities for the 2013-2014 school year.

Specific questions regarding tonight's presentation:

1. Mr. Wolf asked who supplies the tractors for the tractor driving contest.
2. Ms. Kurnath replied that several companies around the area supply the tractors.

B. Chromebook Implementation – Mrs. Brandie Shatto, Director of Educational Technology and Public Relations. Mrs. Shatto is here to present to the Board information on the Chromebooks.

Specific questions regarding tonight's presentation:

1. Mr. Wolf asked who controls these Chromebooks.
2. Mrs. Shatto replied that I do and the administration.
3. Mr. Wolf asked if students are learning every day with the Chromebooks.
4. Mr. Roberts replied yes they are.
5. Mr. Blasco asked why two students opted out of the Chromebook.
6. Mrs. Shatto replied that one student's parent had purchased a laptop for them and the student wanted to use that laptop. The other student the parent's wanted to have control of the settings.
7. Mr. Blasco asked if they can bring their own laptop to school.
8. Mrs. Shatto stated they can bring their own laptop. We have a bring your own technology policy.
9. Mr. Piper asked what it means that two students have not completed their paperwork or submitted their \$25.00 for a protection plan.
10. Mrs. Shatto they have not completed the necessary paperwork so they have not been given a Chromebook.
11. Mr. Wolf asked what On-Demand PD is.
12. Mrs. Shatto replied Professional Development when needed.

C. Pre-K Counts – Ms. Mandy Kirby, Child Development Manager and Ms. Allison Gordon, Classroom Teacher will update the Board on the Pre-K Count Grant funded through Shippensburg University.

Specific questions regarding tonight's presentation:

1. Mr. Wolf questioned how many hours a day and how many days a week will the children go to school.
2. Ms. Kirby replied they will attend classes 5 days a week for 5 hours a day.
3. Mr. Blasco asked how you will determine who is most needy. How do you know if they have special needs if they have not been in school yet?
4. Ms. Kirby replied we have a program through head start where we verify their income. Some children come to us with an IEP through the Capital Area IU.
5. Mr. Fry stated that the Federal Government gives money every year for children ages 3 through 5 through early intervention for screenings. The IU does these screenings of children and provides services on our behalf where needed.
6. Mr. McCrea questioned if they have a speech therapist on board.
7. Ms. Kirby informed the Board that they contract with the local IU.
8. Mr. McCrea inquired on the hours of the program.
9. Ms. Kirby replied class starts at 9:30 am and ends at 2:30 pm Monday through Friday. The students will be there 5 hours a day.
10. Mr. Fry told the Board that the children they will be working with is about 8 to 10 percent of the kindergarten class.
11. Mr. Wolf asked how the selection process works. Is it open enrollment for everyone?
12. Ms. Kirby stated they have a selection process. They try to work with around 18 or 20 children. We post it in the newspapers. We sent flyers home with children in grades K through 2.
13. Mr. Piper stated with the full day kindergarten program can we track students using different systems? Will we be able to set up tracking of these students as they enter into our schools system?
14. Mr. Roberts replied that we need to find out more information about the Pelican system.

15. Mr. Fry informed the Board that about 18 months ago they revised the Pelican system. PDE has reviewed this system in hopes to make it an all-inclusive system for ages 2 to 21.
16. Mr. Wolf asked is there is any cost to the District besides the building and electric.
17. Mr. Fry replied there is no other cost. This is an all-year program. We will have some things to work out for the summer.
18. Mr. Wolf asked if this is a one year program.
19. Mr. Roberts stated the funding is for five years.
20. Mr. McCrea asked if the program runs beyond the regular school year.
21. Ms. Kirby informed the Board that it does run the whole year.
22. Mr. Wolf asked if this is state money or Federal money.
23. Mr. Fry stated it is federal pass through money that is funding this program.
24. Mr. Piper asked is Head Start a Federal program. Is this program reviewed by the State or who?
25. Ms. Kirby replied it is reviewed by the State.

III. PREVIEW OF THE AGENDA

President Wolf requested that the Board address NEW BUSINESS, PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-13 as a single action item. President Wolf requested that the Board address Items E & F as a single action item as well.

IV. BUILDING & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Mr. Fry and Mr. Barrick led a discussion on the ESCO selection. Three firms were interviewed. Mr. Barrick is prepared to make a recommendation to the Board for the Honeywell Company.

V. FINANCE COMMITTEE

No discussion.

VI. DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

No discussion.

VII. BOARD POLICY

No discussion.

VIII. ITEMS FROM FLOOR

No discussion.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Norris to adjourn, seconded by Swanson to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: Swanson, Wolf, Norris, Piper, Gutshall, McCrea, Barrick, and Blasco. Motion carried unanimously 8 – 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary